(e) whether any materials left by Mr. Dodwell cannot be made available to research scholars; if so, why?

A.—(a) 1910.

(b) A list of some of these records was made by Mr. Dodwell.

(c) One of the clerks of the office.

(d) Beyond the listing of some of these records, nothing has been done in respect of these records during or after Mr. Dodwell's time.

(e) Yes.

Under the existing rules research scholars can be allowed access to these records.

Appointment of a clerk in the Madras Record office.

* 1165-B Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether an advertisement was published in the *Fort St. George Gazette* on 20th November 1923 by the Deputy Secretary, Finance Department, dated 17th November 1923, calling for applications from Persian and Hindustani knowing men for a clerk's post in the Madras Record office; how many applied for the post and why no appointment was then made; and when the Government propose to fill the vacancy?

A.—Yes.

Eleven candidates applied. No suitable candidate was available. The Government do not intend now to make such an appointment.

Action taken on the report on the working of the Madras Record office.

* 1165-C Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to place on the table the orders on the report of the Special Officer Mr. H. A. B. Vernon, I.C.S., on the working of the Madras Record office?

A.—The Government have not passed orders on the report.

Classification and printing of Persian records in the Madras Record office.

* 1165-D Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMAD SAYEED : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) the number of bundles of Persian records preserved in the Madras Record office;

(b) whether the same have been listed or catalogued or sorted;

(c) whether the lists so prepared have been printed or published, and if not, why not; and

(d) what steps have already been taken or are proposed to be taken by the Government to classify and print the Persian records and make them available to the research scholars and students?

A.—(a) The Persian records comprise of about 365 bundles of various sizes and about 330 volumes.

(b) A rough list of the contents of these records has been prepared.